

Parking of private vehicles at Secunderabad Railway Station

322. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great confusion at the Secunderabad Railway Station (South Central Railway) parking lot for private vehicles, resulting in tension for commuters who leave their vehicles outside the station;

(b) whether the contractor, managing the parking lot, has left and no alternative arrangement has been made by Railway authorities; and

(c) whether the authorities would attend to this difficulty of commuters who want to leave their vehicles at the Railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Cycle stand contract managed by contractor was in existence upto 30.11.2000 and subsequently the same is being run departmentally. Open tenders were called for awarding of cycle stand contract and the same has been finalised. Letter for awarding of the contract has been issued to the new contractor on 7.02.2001.

Inspection of New Delhi Railway Station

323. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a surprise inspection of New Delhi Railway Station recently, the departmental catering areas were found unclean;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to remedy the situation; and

(c) whether Government propose to undertake such inspections at higher official level, in a bid to maintain catering services perfectly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railway has taken immediate steps to replace broken tiles in

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the gas bank area and near the tea stalls to keep the area clean and to ensure high standard of hygiene.

(c) Instructions have been issued to conduct frequent inspections at different levels to ensure high standard of cleanliness and hygiene in catering premises.

Merger of Railways and General Budgets

324. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to dispense with the system of a separate Budget being presented by the Railways and merge it with the General Budget; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposed merger is likely to take effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

US aid for upgrading Railway System

325. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have drafted a Plan to upgrade its system and for this purpose U.S. aid has been sought;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the U.S. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Modernisation and upgradation of the Railways is a continuous and need-based exercise which takes into account the availability of resources and the requirements of the System for ensuring better services and safety standards.